

# A SECOND SHOCK SHAKES SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18, 8:15—There has just been another shock, which intensified the panic. People have started to rush into the streets, but the shock was of short duration and the alarm subsided.

## Greatest Conflagration of Modern Times Threatened

Great Buildings Topple, Watermains Burst and Flames Eat Their Way Up Business District, Spreading Terror in Their Wake—Most Frightful Disaster in Country's History.

Excitement and Terror Contribute to Make Horror the Worst Ever Witnessed by the People of the Coast—Wires Down and News Information Meager.

DENVER, April 18—At 9:15 a.m. Postal Telegraph Company here received the following information from Los Angeles: It is reported that thousands of lives have been lost in an earthquake at San Francisco. Both the Postal and the Western Union telegraph buildings in that city are reported to have been destroyed. A disastrous fire is eating its way up the south side of Market street and at last accounts was within three blocks of the Palace hotel. Water mains were bursting and the fire department was absolutely helpless. Business is entirely suspended.

### Buildings Dynamited To Stop Progress Of Fire

SACRAMENTO, Calif., April 18—The correspondent of the Associated Press here has been informed from a reliable source that the earthquake this morning in San Francisco created great destruction of property. The loss from the shock and subsequent fires will reach into the millions. The fire is still raging covering an area from Montgomery street to the Water front. It is said hundreds of buildings in the business section have been ruined. The fire started in a dozen different places and is now being fought with dynamite.

Three miles of the Southern Pacific track near Benicia was sunk down for a depth of about four feet.

### Operators Return to Their Posts After an Hour's Absence.

SALT LAKE CITY, April 19.—Reports received by the Salt Lake office of the Postal Telegraph company from San Francisco would indicate that the first reports of the earthquake in San Francisco were exaggerated. Supt. W. P. S. Hawk was in communication with San Francisco office of the Postal Telegraph company after the earthquake. He was informed that it would be necessary for the operating force to vacate the office. This was done and the operators left the building, but returned within an hour, and business was resumed. San Francisco reported that the water mains in Market street had broken. Salt Lake is not now in communication with San Francisco.

### Buildings Rock Like Cradles, Panic Comes and Destruction Ensues.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—San Francisco was practically wrecked by an earthquake at 5:10 this morning. The shock lasted three minutes, thousands of buildings were damaged and destroyed. The loss of life is reported to be great. There is no water and fire rages all over the city. All wires with the exception of one are gone. The city hall, costing seven millions, is in ruins. Modern buildings suffered less than brick and frame. Terror and excitement are indescribable. Most of the people, asleep, were suddenly aroused and rushed into the streets undressed. Buildings swayed and crashed, burying occupants. Panic in the hotels. Lick house was badly damaged but no loss of life is reported there. The Palace and San Francisco hotels stood the shock. People flocked to the telegraph office to send messages to friends and were frantic because there were no wires. The greatest damage to buildings was done south of Market street, where they are mostly

frame buildings and tenement houses. Fire broke out in every block of that district.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., April 18.—The severest earthquake shock felt in this city in many years occurred at 5:13 o'clock this morning. Buildings rocked like cradles. Many clocks stopped. No serious damage was done. A few cracks were discovered in the stone postoffice building. Slight damage was done to some brick buildings.

Telegraph and telephone wires were prostrated between Sacramento and San Francisco and no communication could be had with the latter city this morning.

Chimneys and water tanks were shaken down at Suisun Solano county, and at Tracy, San Joaquin county.

#### SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

Representative Towne Tells of His Great Power in Politics.

Boston, April 18.—Representative Chas. A. Towne of New York discussed "The One Man Power in Politics" before the Massachusetts Reform club at the Hotel Brunswick last night. He declared that in this country the speaker of the national house of representatives instead of being an officer necessary for the efficient conduct of legislative business had become a political officer who could by the accumulated power further the ends of the party which he represented.

Thorstein B. Uehlin, professor of political economy in the University of Chicago, also discussed the subject academically.

### DISASTER GROWS AS REPORTS COME IN

Valencia Hotel Goes Down Burying Seventy-Five People in the Debris—An Equal Number Meet Death in Kingsley Lodging House—All Business and Traffic At Standstill.

San Francisco, April 18, 8:40 a. m.—As reports come in the magnitude of the disaster grows. Fire has been raging in all directions and people are moving out of the downtown section. The loss of life may reach into the hundreds, and millions of dollars' worth of property has been destroyed.

The Valencia hotel, between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets, on Valencia street, a five-story frame building, toppled over into the street burying 75 people in the debris. Only the top story remains intact. A house on Fourteenth street, near Valencia, was wrecked, killing two people.

Many of these houses are damaged so badly that it is impossible to get the fire apparatus out. A lodging house on Seventh street between Howard and Mission, known as the Kingsley, entirely collapsed, it is on fire and 75 to 80 people are believed to be buried in the flaming ruins. At Twenty-second and Mission the dry-goods store of Lipman is on fire, threatening the destruction of the entire block. At Eighteenth and Valencia there is a crevice in the street six feet wide and entire sidewalks are torn up. The street car tracks are badly twisted, and traffic is at a standstill. At the southern Pacific hospital, water is being carried into the building from outside sources for the use of the patients. Many people suffering from injuries are seen on the streets making their way to the different hospitals. The Episcopal church on Eleventh street is badly damaged, and at the Studebaker carriage factory on Tenth and Market streets the top story caved in, badly wrecking the entire building.

Fire which has been raging in the

vicinity of Fourth and Stevenson streets has got beyond the control of the firemen and the flames have leaped to the Winchester rooming house, on the west side of Third street. Unless the flames can be checked here, the Palace hotel, one block distant, will be endangered.

The water supply is entirely inadequate and powder is being used to check the flames. The rooms in the Palace hotel were vacated early in the morning and guests are now returning to gather up their effects. All sorts of vehicles are being used to carry out of the danger zone everything of value. The loss of life seems to have been confined to the poorer districts.

For the benefit of eastern people who have friends, visiting in San Francisco, it is safe to say they have not been injured.

As the hours go by the excitement grows more intense. Every few minutes explosions are heard as buildings are blown up to stop the progress of the flames. The fire has spread and if the wind comes up San Francisco will experience the greatest conflagration of modern times. On lower Market street, the main thoroughfare of the city, block after block of substantial buildings have been destroyed. A big fire is raging on the corner of Sansome and Vine streets, one block from the Associated Press. The wildest rumors as to loss of life are coming in to the newspapers but it is impossible to confirm them. No reports have been received outside of San Francisco but the damage about the bay must be enormous. Oakland is said have suffered severely.

San Francisco, April 18, 8:40 a. m.—A disastrous fire has broken out on

the south side of Market street and is now within one block of the Palace hotel. The water mains have burst and the fire department is practically helpless. The utmost confusion exists. All business is suspended. At this moment there is only one wire out of San Francisco—a Postal wire. The Postal building is badly damaged. The operating room is a total wreck. The power of every kind is gone and there are no lights either gas or electric. Neither the Palace hotel nor the St. Francis is gone, that is so far as the outside goes, but the inside plastering, etc., is greatly damaged. Between the Postal office and the water front there has been great damage by fire, which is burning fiercely, and there is little or no water. The fire is burning both on the east and south side of the Postal building. The damage by the earthquake apparently extends all over the city. The shock occurred at 5:15 this morning and lasted three minutes. The streets are blockaded with debris. Buildings are being blown up. The residence districts are safe, as far as heard from.

#### YANCEY HOTEL BURNED.

Was Famous Hosiery Located in Yellowstone National Park.

Butte, Mont., April 18.—A special to the Miner from Livingston, Mont., says that the old Yancey hotel, located in the Yellowstone National park, was destroyed by fire some time last night. The fire originated from a defective chimney, and was so far advanced before it was discovered, that nothing could be done to save the property. The hotel was founded more than 20 years ago, by John Yancey, who was familiarly known as Uncle John, and who made it a most popular resort for tourists making the rounds of the place.

### EXPLOSION ON THE KEARSARGE.

Circumstantial Account of the Accident on the Great Battleship.

#### OFFICERS AND MEN VERY COOL

Seems Certain Electric Switch Was Short Circuited by Shell-Tongs Striking It.

New York, April 18.—The Herald today prints a cable dispatch from Calmanera, Cuba, which purports to contain a circumstantial report of the accident last week on the battleship Kearsarge, the official version of which in detail is not yet available.

The Herald's cable says: "When the Kearsarge had finished two successful runs firing at targets on Friday afternoon, using all four guns of her forward turret, she turned off range to secure it.

"One gun, the left 13-inch piece, was loaded when the firing ceased. Lieut. Huggins, the turret officer, and Lieut. Graeme, the umpire, remained in the turret discussing some firing rules.

#### HOW ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

"The turret crew, about 10 minutes after firing ceased, began to unload the guns. Three sections of the charge had been withdrawn by metal hooks and placed on the turret floor, when the man handling the hooks accidentally short circuited the switch to the electric ammunition hoist behind him, causing the arc which fused the metal of the switch. The molten particles dropped into the powder on the floor, and seeing the danger, the man jumped headlong down through the turret and was but slightly injured.

"Lieuts. Huggins and Graeme and 11 seamen were seriously burned. No explosion took place and no sound was heard by the officers on the bridge, but smoke and flame burst from the turret.

#### FIRE QUARTERS SOUNDED.

"Fire quarters were sounded and here laid to the fire with great promptness. It was put out without difficulty

and further damage was prevented. The burned men were removed at once.

#### SIX MEN DEAD.

"Six of the enlisted men were dead. Lieut. Huggins died at a quarter of four o'clock the next morning, and Lieut. Graeme, who was removed at once to his own ship, the Maryland, died at 6 o'clock. The condition of the injured men is favorable.

"Every officer and man on the Kearsarge behaved in the coolest and bravest manner after the accident. There is a long list of men and officers whose bravery was conspicuous. "Lieut. Hodgins pushed L. W. King, ordinary seaman, away from the danger, and interposed his own body. King was very severely burned, and in his delirium cried: 'Mr. Hodgins, you are saving me, but burning yourself.' his men removed from the turret before the rescuers took him out. Lieut. Graeme asked that the others be attended by the surgeons before him and repeatedly inquired after his comrades.

#### SHOOTING FOR HELP.

"J. A. Koester, turret captain, himself frantically burned, climbed to the top of the turret, shouting for help for those inside. When the fire was put out and the rescue began he sank down, saying: 'Good-bye, Kearsarge.' He was conscious until his death, at 15 minutes after 9 o'clock that night and gave a clear statement of what happened in the turret though suffering excruciating pain.

#### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

"As soon as the flames in the turret were beaten down volunteers were called for to go in and bring out the injured. Gunner Melvick was conspicuous in the brave work in the handling room and magazines. G. Breeman, seaman, rushed into the handling room, stamping out the burning powder and then closed himself inside the magazine and began covering the powder tanks.

"Boatswain's Mate Pickard, Nordstrom and Carpenter and Chief Machinist's Mate Cavanaugh were the first who rushed into the turret in the handling room and magazines. They remained there in the suffocating gas until all the injured had been passed out.

#### SEEMED LIKE CERTAIN DEATH.

"Boatswain's Mate J. Herriek, Chief Master at Arms Magnusen, Ordinary Seamen Egan and Schreiber, Seaman Weber, Keith and Dougherty and Machinist's Mate Wilson led the hose into the 8-inch handling room to what appeared certain death.

"It appears certain that the electric switch was short-circuited by the handle of the shell, tossed accidentally striking it, and fusing the jaws of the switch. Midshipmen Hall and Connor, though barely a month at sea, remained at their stations in the handling room leading out the hose, though the burning grains of powder were falling about them."